

Message Text

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16

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 RSC-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02

COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /267 W
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R 060615Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4345

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BM

SUBJECT: LOS - BURMESE PREPARATIONS AND VIEWS

REF: STATE 67788

1. SUMMARY: BURMESE POSITION AT LOS CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY BE
LARGELY PASSIVE, INCLINED TOWARD ACCEPTING CONSENSUS (WHERE ONE
EXISTS) OF REGIONAL SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS. MAJOR

ISSUES OF INTEREST TO GUB WILL BE REGIME OF SEABED AND FISHERIES
RESOURCES, AND SECONDARILY QUESTION OF BREADTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA
AND STRAITS. GUB VIEWS IN PROCESS OF FORMULATION ON BASIS OF
COASTAL STATE CONTROL OF SEABED RESOURCES OF ENTIRE CONTINENTAL
MARGIN, EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE WHICH WOULD BE BROAD (BUT NOT
NECESSARILY RELATED TO LIMIT OF SEABED RESOURCES CONTROL ZONE),
AND RIGHT OF "ASSURED INNOCENT PASSAGE" THROUGH STRAITS. NO
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FINAL DECISION YET ON BURMESE DELEGATION TO CARACAS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED LOS ISSUES AND BURMESE PREPARATION FOR CARACAS CONFERENCE WITH DAW THAN HAN, DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN/AMERICAN AFFAIRS (THE WORKING-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR LOS MATTERS). SHE SAID BURMESE PREPARATIONS NOW BEING MADE BY INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, MINES, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DEALING WITH POLLUTION AS WELL AS SHIPPING QUESTIONS), AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS (RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHERIES), AND CENTRAL LAW OFFICE (FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT). CABINET HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO SEND A DELEGATION, BUT ITS MAKEUP NOT YET DEFINITELY DECIDED. HOWEVER, BURMESE DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST OR ALL AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON COMMITTEE.

3. DAW THAN HAN SAID BASIC BURMESE POSITION WOULD BE TO PROTECT BURMESE RIGHTS TO ADJACENT FISHERY AND SEABED RESOURCES, CONSISTENT WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. THUS, REGIME OF FISHERIES AND OF SEABED BEYOND TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE ISSUES OF MAJOR CONCERN TO GUB.

4. GUB FAVORS COASTAL STATE CONTROL OF SEABED RESOURCES TO OUTER EDGE OF TERRITORIAL MARGIN. DAW THAN HAN NOTED THIS WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE DELINEATION OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN BOUNDARIES WITH BURMA'S NEIGHBORS. BURMESE-THAI BOUNDARY IS SETTLED, BUT OVERLAP EXISTS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN BURMESE AND BANGLADESH CLAIMS, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO DEMARCATION BETWEEN BURMESE AND INDIAN SHARES OF ANDAMAN SEA.

5. SIMILARLY, GUB LEANS TOWARD FAIRLY BROAD EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE ADJACENT TO TERRITORIAL WATERS, BUT AGREES THAT DELIMITATION OF THIS ZONE SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE RELATED TO DELIMITATION OF COASTAL STATE CONTROL OF SEABED RESOURCES. DAW THAN HAN NOTED THAT ANY SUCH RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE UNFAIR TO STATES HAVING ONLY NARROW CONTINENTAL MARGINS, INDICATING GUB THINKING IN TERMS OF FAIRLY WIDE FISHERY ZONE. HOWEVER, SHE DECLINED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO BREADTH OF ZONE, INDICATING BURMA WOULD ACCEPT CONSENSUS VIEW OF SUBJECT. HERE AS ON OTHER LOS SUBJECTS BURMA WOULD ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO VIEWS OF ITS REGIONAL SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS.

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6. ON TERRITORIAL SEA, GUB SATISFIED WITH 12 MILES OR ANY OTHER GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE WIDTH. GUB FAVORS RIGHT OF "ASSURED INNOCENT PASSAGE" THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. DAW THAN HAN DID NOT INDICATE SPECIFICS OF GUB THINKING ON SUCH NAVIGATIONAL FREEDOMS BUT SAID GUB AGREES GENERALLY WITH THE THREE PRINCIPLES DESCRIBED IN "UNITED STATES VIEWS ON TERRITORIAL SEA AND STRAITS" (ENCLOSURE TO DEPT'S A-1666).

7. GUB HAS GIVEN LITTLE THOUGHT TO QUESTIONS OF MARINE POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, BUT IS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONALLY-ESTABLISHED POLLUTION STANDARDS. GUB ATTITUDE TOWARD PROVISIONAL APPLICATION WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER SUCH APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED BY NEIGHBORING STATES.

8. DAW THAN HAN INDICATED BURMESE PARTICIPATION IN LOS CONFERENCE IS LIKELY TO BE SIMILAR TO THAT IN MOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: DELEGATION RELATIVELY INACTIVE WITH LITTLE LEEWAY IN INSTRUCTIONS, ACCEPTING CONSENSUS RATHER THAN PUSHING FOR ANY STRONGLY-HELD VIEWS.
OSBORN

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